

**Quarterly Issues and Programming Report  
Oct 2010 thru Dec 2010**

**WCTX/MyTV9**

1. Community Issues
2. Health
3. Education
4. Crime
5. Consumer Issues
6. Government, economy, and law

## **Community Issues:**

### **October:**

10/06/10: Good Morning CT – :30

#### **“Food Pantry”**

Food pantries across the state are finding it harder and harder to keep their shelves filled. The New London Area Food Pantry says that's because more and more people are coming in looking for help. Some are in for the first time after being laid off. The pantry which is run by volunteers and on donations has seen some more people than ever come in during August.

10/13/10: Good Morning CT - :25

#### **“Bridgeport Programs Meeting”**

Parents in Bridgeport are worried their childrens' school is turning its back on a successful program to help kids stay off drugs. It's called Peer-to-Peer Drug counseling. Many upset parents packed into the "Aquaculture Center" for a Board of Ed meeting last night. They are asking the B-O-E not to axe the program housed at Central High School. A Yale study of "Peer to Peer," started in 2004, shows those involved had improvement in attendance and academic performance.

10/18/10: Good Morning CT - :35

#### **“Veterans Memorial”**

State leaders say fundraisers are half-way to their goal.. of raising money to build a state veterans memorial. The memorial will cost 1-point-2 million dollars. Governor Jodi Rell says they've got to raise 600-thousand more. State leaders are launching a fundraising drive and are asking people to donate a dollar to honor a service member. The names of honorees will appear on an "Honor Roll of Heroes" kiosk. If you would like to help...The state armories in Hartford, Enfield, New London, Stratford and Waterbury will be open from 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 13 for you to drop off your \$1 donation.

10/30/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

#### **“Shelter Dogs Rescued”**

Great news for those dogs slated to be put down at Hartford's City dog shelter. We are happy to report all 22 dogs were adopted! They had been quarantined for a month because of Parvo concerns. Because of costs, typically stray dogs ONLY get about 8 days before they are euthanized at this kill shelter. Dog lovers say thank you to everyone who stepped up to help the animals!

### **November:**

11/18/10: News 8 at 10pm - :45

### **"New Haven Tent City"**

An annual homelessness awareness campaign took over the New Haven green tonight. It's called Tent City on the Green. Each tent raised one-thousand dollars to help families who need shelter. The third annual fundraiser was started in response to budget cuts to the city's overflow shelter. Organizers say the event not only raises money but awareness about who is affected by homelessness. Dr. Chisara Asomugha/ Community Services Administrator - "It's not just one particular demographic. It's not just men, it's not just women, it's families, it's kids. Communities are impacted by the issue of homelessness. So to see the wide-ranging support, acknowledges that principle, that fact." Tent city is held in partnership with the United Way. The Connecticut Food Bank was also there collecting non-perishable food.

11/21/10: News 8 at 10pm - :45

### **"Hartford Thanksgiving Dinner"**

Thanksgiving dinner has come early for one group in Hartford. Today the Hartford Guardians organization hosted a dinner for those in need. The group of law enforcement officers took a break from their beat to dish out meals to 3-hundred homeless people from across the city. They say it's just another way they can give back to the community. The group says this is the event's second year and it was so successful that they plan on doing it again next Thanksgiving.

11/24/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

### **"Branford Students Make Food"**

And in Branford, a group of high school students took a break from the classroom today to help the less fortunate. Students rolled up their sleeves and got to work on some of their best dishes. Today they prepared lunch and dinner for about 150 people. The students who participated today also teamed up with the Community Dining Room to prepare the meals.

## **December:**

12/01/10: Good Morning CT - :20

### **"Tree Lighting"**

Tonight the city of Norwalk will light the holiday tree there. Its taking place at the Norwalk Concert Hall and doors open at 6pm. A sing along is planned... with performances from several organizations including Crystal Theatre, Norwalk Community Chorale, Norwalk High School Men's Quartet and Dance Dimensions.

12/13/10: Good Morning CT - :30

### **"Griswold Fundraiser"**

The community is really stepping up to help support the families of the victims in the Griswold crash. The Hair Cuttery hair salon on River Road in Lisbon held a cut-a-thon this weekend. A lot of people showed up, even strangers who didn't want to get their hair cut but just wanted to drop off a donation. They expected to raise well over a thousand dollars and every penny will go to the families to help with the funeral costs.

12/13/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

### **"Coats for Kids"**

Just in time for this coming cold snap a bunch of kids in New Haven have brand new winter coats tonight. Today the New Haven Knights of Columbus handed out 250 winter coats to kids at the St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima school. Its part of the group's "Coats for Kids" program. This is the third consecutive year the group has distributed coats to kids in cold weather cities in the United States and Canada.

## **Health:**

### **October:**

10/07/10: Good Morning CT - :22

#### **"Binge Drinking Awareness"**

It's a big problem... A new report from the CDC shows one in four high school students and adults ages 18 to 34 have done some \*binge drinking\*. Binge drinking is defined as having four or more drinks, for women, and five or more for men in about 2 hours. Excessive alcohol use, including binge drinking, is the third leading cause of preventable death in America.

10/14/10: Good Morning CT - :20

#### **"Heal Pain with Love"**

In health news this morning, researchers found a huge link between your heart and health. Falling in Love can help ease "real" pain... and scientists know why. They say love stimulates the brain's reward pathway kind of like the rush of an addictive drug. Now they want to know if this "love-pain" relationship can help fight chronic pain. Falling head over heels isn't exactly something a doctor can prescribe but they might be able to prescribe a little "passion" as long as it's all on the "up and up."

10/22/10: Good Morning CT – 1:45

#### **"Diabetes"**

There is some new research out this morning that paints a scary picture when it comes to diabetes in this country. New Government numbers show the number of diabetics could double or triple in the next forty years. CDC researchers warn that if nothing is done to improve Americans' health habits and address the obesity epidemic the number of diabetics could skyrocket by the year 2050. Today's study shows one in ten American adults have type-two diabetes now. The dire prediction is one in three adults could have the blood-sugar disorder just forty-years from now. Richard Besser: "... because the population is getting older, because the population in general is obese and because the demographics of the population, the racial makeup is changing, the rate of diabetes is going to go up dramatically." Doctors have been pushing healthy diets and exercise routines to fight obesity and the risks of diabetes. CDC researchers say prevention programs are vital to prevent a diabetes epidemic and control health care costs. Besser: "Diabetes is the seventh leading killer in this country and it accounts for 170-billion dollars in health care expenditures. If you have diabetes, your health care costs will more than double those of someone who doesn't have diabetes." Another alarming statistic: 285-million people worldwide are diabetic today. By 2030, that number is predicted to be 435-million people. That's why public health experts from the CDC and other agencies have been calling attention to diabetes, its warning signs, risks and complications.

### **November:**

11/01/10: Good Morning CT - :25

#### **"Sleeping Through the Night"**

If new moms and dads are wondering when their new baby is finally going to sleep through the night a new study may provide some relief. The study finds most infants will start sleeping through the night between two and four months old. But moms and dads don't get too excited yet it still may take a little longer for the baby's eight hours of sleep to conform to the family's sleep schedule. The research was just published in the journal Pediatrics.

11/02/10: Good Morning CT - :40

#### **"Whooping Cough"**

What do you know about whooping cough? There is a big push to get several groups of people vaccinated right now. Whooping cough also known as Pertussis, is a highly contagious disease that affects the respiratory system and causes violent coughing that can sometimes lead to an inability to breathe. In some cases, especially in children, it can be deadly. Traditionally, the vaccine is given to infants and children in a series of vaccinations. But an advisory committee for the centers for disease control also recommends the vaccine between 11 and 12 years old and a booster in teen years. Experts say if adults don't remember if they've had it they should get it too.

11/04/10: Good Morning CT - :25

**"Breast Cancer Bus"**

There's a couple opportunities over the next few days for women to get free breast cancer screenings. The first is today in North haven from 9 to 5 at the North Haven Health and Racquet Club...on Elm Street. The second, is tomorrow in Glastonbury at the Riverfront Community Center on Welles Street. Its all part of HealthFair's "Breast Bus: A National Women's Breast Health Initiative". Free ultrasound scans are being offered on a first come first served basis.

11/18/10: Good Morning CT - :20

**"Men Hearts and Sleep"**

Health news this morning... one more reason men should get plenty of sleep. A new study finds men who don't sleep enough may be increasing their risk for cardiovascular disease. The idea is based on the finding that less sleep is associated with a thickening of the neck's carotid artery wall a marker for heart disease. The findings were presented this week at the American Heart Association's annual meeting in Chicago.

**December:**

12/01/10: Good Morning CT - :30

**"Survival of Kindness"**

Let's face it... this is a dog-eat-dog world. But imagine this .. caring for others may actually help you live longer. An associate professor of preventive medicine at SUNY-Stony Brook followed a group of older adults caring for family members with dementia and other illnesses. If they provided care to loved ones more than 14 hours a week... Over a seven-year period the research found they were less likely to die than their peers. This and more research on the importance of caring and kindness was just published in the U-S-A today.

12/08/10: Good Morning CT - :30

**"Cell Phones and Pregnancy"**

Health news this morning... There's new evidence cell phones may affect children's behavior even before they're born. UCLA researchers found children exposed to cell phones both in the womb and after birth were more likely to have behavior problems by their seventh birthday than those with less exposure. Their new study looked at nearly 29-thousand children. Researchers say the more frequently a mother used a cell phone, the greater the risk her child would have a behavioral problem. The idea is this could be related to the electromagnetic fields emitted by phones.

12/15/10: Good Morning CT - :60

**"Radon 101"**

You don't have to be a smoker to develop lung cancer. The second leading cause of this killer might be hiding in your house and you might not know it. And with the cold weather, we spend more time at home so if you didn't know before we're telling you more about radon. Its something you can't see or smell. Its a naturally occurring radioactive gas and accumulates in places like new and old homes... offices, and schools. The epa website has instructions on testing kits, and potential fixes. You'll want to fix problems as soon as possible.

## **Education:**

### **October:**

10/04/10: Good Morning CT – 1:25

#### **“Milford Super Search”**

One shoreline school district wants to hear from parents as it searches for a new Superintendent. Milford is picking up the pace of that search this week. News 8's Annie Rourke is here now to explain how parents can get involved. Their approach is both high-tech and tradition. They'll have face to face meetings and offer folks a chance to go on-line and put in their two cents. It's been a tough year for the Milford Board of Education. Harvey Polansky resigned last June after facing criminal sexual harassment charges. Since then, the assistant superintendent Michael Cummings has been acting head. Now, the city is turning to focus groups to find a replacement. They've hired search consultants who will be holding what they're calling a series of "community conversations". Teachers, parents, administrators, city officials, even just concerned citizens are welcome to attend. The consultants want to know what qualities people want in their new superintendent to help them narrow the search.

10/15/10: News 8 at 10pm – 1:10

#### **“Dr Henry Lee Building”**

Back in 1975...UNH's Forensic Science program had half a dozen students and lab space the size of a closet. Today... let's take a look! What's 14-million dollars, state of the art and the first of its kind in the state? Dr. Henry Lee's new baby. What a baby it is...the new Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science has 6 learning centers with high-tech laboratories, virtual crime scene training modules, cutting edge instruments and classrooms. A training playground for police, lawyers, investigators and of course the students, even high schoolers. The aim is to solve complex cases...like the Annie Le murder...or the Middletown plant explosion...using cutting-edge investigative techniques. This ribbon cutting and dedication is just the beginning. There's lots more crimes to be solved and lots more law enforcement folks to be taught using this Institute. On the scene in West Haven, Ch, N8.

10/21/10: Good Morning CT – 1:40

#### **“New Haven School Lunch”**

Want to get kids to eat right? Bring in some culinary pros. That's what New Haven is doing at its public schools. News 8's Keith Kountz checks it out. Students at the Barnard School are getting a hands on cooking lesson from a real life chef. In the coming weeks, more New Haven kids will get their turn to learn about healthy eating thanks to the 'Chefs Move to Schools' program.

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, decked out like a 'culinary pro' for today's kick-off announcement, was one of many officials talking up the importance of proper nutrition. Rep. Rosa DeLauro/(D) Ct: 'If you make food important and exciting... kids with the opportunity to cook it is transforming to them and they will take it all home with them'. The district wants students in k-thru-8 schools to become what it calls 'health heroes' by actively taking part in a variety of health related challenges in their classrooms. So, on one day it could be a 'hands on' cooking class then on another kids could plant a garden in their own classrooms. Keith Kountz/News 8 'The program will start with two schools... Clinton Avenue behind me here and Troupe... from their it will move to two more schools in November'

### **November:**

11/06/10: Good Morning CT - :20

#### **“Middletown Board of Education Fight”**

A brawl at the 'board of ed' in Middletown leads to one woman getting put in handcuffs. Police say about 8:30 yesterday morning... Nancy Haynes -- a board of education employee -- got into a

fight with another employee over a work issue. It got physical. Police say Haynes grabbed the other employee's arm as she tried to leave hurting her. Police say the injury wasn't serious. Haynes is charged with disorderly conduct.

#### 11/23/10: Good Morning CT - :20

##### **"Bill Cosby in New Haven"**

Comedian Bill Cosby will also be in New Haven today talking about the importance of education. He'll be speaking at Southern Connecticut State University and at the King-Robinson International Baccalaureate Magnet School. After that, he'll head over the Newhallville and Dixwell neighborhoods to talk to parents.

#### 11/30/10: Good Morning CT - :25

##### **"New Haven School Change"**

Education, school reform, closing the achievement gap -- is the system broken? It's certainly a hot-button topic and tonight News 8 and the New Haven Independent will sponsor a discussion about it at the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School in New Haven. We'll use a controversial new book by education expert and author Diane Ravitch.. as the jumping-off point. And she'll be part of the conversation. Teachers, students and administrators will weigh in to tackle the issues 'head-on'. Coverage of this forum can be seen live via our website [www.wtnh.com](http://www.wtnh.com).

#### **December:**

#### 12/01/10: Good Morning Ct - :30

##### **"Education Forum"**

A new book on education in this country is stirring controversy.. and sparking debate about measure of success in America's schools. The book is called "*The Death and Life of the Great American School System*." The author - Diane Ravitch - was in New Haven last night for a panel discussion about education reform. Ravitch helped write education policy for the federal government -- but stopped supporting the "No Child Left Behind" program four years ago. She says schools need to put more emphasis on a strong curriculum.. and less emphasis on testing. It's an approach supported by many who were there last night..

#### 12/09/10: News at 10pm - :30

##### **"Milford Scam"**

Police in Milford are warning folks about a scam in town that involves the school system. A local business says it got a suspicious invoice from a company called "Signature Sports," based out of Springfield, Massachusetts. The invoice asked for a payment of 100-dollars for advertising in a Foran High School sports poster. Police say the promotion is not legitimate and is not associated with the Milford Board of Education.

#### 12/14/10: Good Morning CT - :35

##### **"Hartford School Survey"**

The Hartford Board of Education wants input from parents in the search for a new superintendent. They're launching a public survey online. The board says this is to help ensure a fair and open process in the selection process. We're told it takes less than 10 minutes to complete. You can take the survey in English or Spanish beginning today at the website [www.hartfordschools.org](http://www.hartfordschools.org).

#### **Crime:**

#### **October:**

10/04/10: Good Morning CT - :30

**"Home Invasion Trial"**

In a case that has lasted more than two weeks...After today it'll all be in the jury's hands. Jury deliberation is scheduled to begin today in the Cheshire home invasion trial against Steven Hayes. Lawyers presented their closing arguments Friday. Prosecutors say the Hayes is responsible for the deaths of Jennifer Hawke Petit and her daughters Hayley and Michaela. But the defense pointed the blame at the second suspect in the crime. They say Joshua Komisarjevsky was responsible for escalating the violence.

10/14/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

**"LI Teens Beat Boy"**

Three teenagers on Long Island are under arrest charged with a hate crime. They're accused of beating a 14-year-old boy on a school bus and yelling anti-gay slurs at him. Police say the victim was stomped and kicked on his arms, legs, stomach and thigh.

10/25/10: Good Morning CT - :25

**"Fairfield Standoff"**

An incident that forced the evacuation of an entire neighborhood in Fairfield over the weekend is being called a suicide. Police say they were called to a house on Homeland Street after a man barricaded himself inside and threatened to kill himself. A reverse 911 warning call was issued and the Swat Team was called out.

10/25/10: News 8 at 10pm - :35

**"Vernon Baby Assault"**

A Rockville man is facing assault charges tonight after police say he beat an 11-week-old baby. That child is recovering from severe injuries including broken bones and brain hemorrhaging. Police say it happened right here in that house. Just over two months ago an 11 week old baby was taken to the hospital with critical injuries, a fractured skull 15 fractured ribs and other broken bones. Police have made one arrest and say now a second one is now coming. Police charged Jeremy Boucher with assault, risk of injury to a minor, and cruelty to persons. Police say Boucher is in custody held on a 40 thousand dollar bond.

**November:**

11/03/10: Good Morning CT - :20

**"Buck Trial Begins"**

The trial for a Mystic man charged with murdering his wife is underway. The 63 year Charles Buck is accused of killing 57 year old Leslie Buck. She was found at the bottom of the stairs in their home in 2002. The Day of New London reports three witnesses took the stand yesterday.. Pictures of the crime scene and the 911 call from the night Leslie Buck died were also presented as evidence. A three judge panel is hearing the case.

11/19/10: Good Morning CT - :35

**"Shelton/Seymour Breakins"**

Business owners in the Seymour and Shelton area are highly concerned about a couple of thieves who seem to be pro's. This convenience store was hit a couple a days ago. Surveillance video from the store in Seymour shows two men dressed in black who appear to be in no hurry and calm and focused working their way through the store taking cigarettes and cash. The owner of the store says they did some major damage financially – "Cleaned me out, completely. They are highly professional, they know what they're doing, they plan on what they're doing, have their own equipment, have their own tools, and they did the job right. If I blame somebody, I blame the laws. I blame the judges that let this guys go after the first and second

incidents. I have no doubt these guys have been in jail two or three times." A Shelton store has also been hit twice in the past two months.

11/27/10: Good Morning CT - :40

**"Mobil Smash and Grab"**

Ledyard police have nabbed a teenager in a smash and grab that happened Thanksgiving night. Police say the teen was caught on surveillance video breaking into a Mobile station on route 117 at Ledyard Center. Police say he stole several cartons of cigarettes. The teen was spotted walking along Route 117 a short time later and was arrested at a nearby house. Police say he was caught with the stolen property and broken glass in his shoes. People we spoke to told us they're not surprised. Because of his age the suspect isn't being identified. He'll appear in juvenile court on charges of larceny and criminal mischief.

11/29/10: News 8 at 10pm – 1:30

**"Thomaston Sexual Assault"**

The town of Thomaston is not used to heavy media attention much less a violent crime. But a teenager, walking home, gets sexually assaulted right near the high school. Thomaston Police say Sunday evening around 6:00, a 16 year old girl was walking home along Route 109/Branch Road when the girl noticed a man sitting on the ground, next to the sidewalk, near Thomaston High School. The suspect did not acknowledge the victim, as the victim was passing. But once the victim passed the suspect, she was attacked from behind and tackled to the ground. Within moments, a terrifying incident became brutal. Once on the ground, the suspect physically assaulted the victim, punching the victim on the head, in face area. The suspect then began to sexually assault the victim, the victim became combative. He let her go - she ran away - he took off - but police have a lead. They're looking for a white man, medium to thin build wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and possibly driving a dark, two-door sedan. The unidentified girl was taken to the hospital with face, head, and throat injuries. Now, parents who frequent this busy road in a quiet town are mindful of this violent crime - and aren't taking any chances.

**December:**

12/01/10: Good Morning CT - :25

**"Hartford Crime Scene"**

Hartford police are investigating a deadly shooting. They spent much of the morning on the scene in Barbour Street outside a convenience store. Police are releasing few details, but witnesses say the homicide may be linked to an armed robbery.

12/06/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

**"CT Domestic Violence Reform"**

A state task force is going to look at just how well some changes to protect violent crime victims are working. The reform package includes an electronic monitoring pilot program, informed enforcement of protective orders and funding for around-the-clock staffing of domestic violence shelters.

12/16/10: News 8 at 10pm - :20

**"Most Secure Areas"**

One part of Connecticut has something to brag about today. The Annual Farmers Insurance Group of Companies has named the New Haven-Milford area one of the most secure areas in the nation to live. It ranks number 20 on the list. Madison, Wisconsin, came in first followed by Des Moines, Iowa and Syracuse, New York. The list takes things like crime stats, extreme weather and life expectancy into consideration.

## **Consumer Issues:**

### **October:**

10/01/10: Good Morning CT - :25

#### **"J&J Recall"**

Johnson-and-Johnson tried to state their case on Capitol Hill. A U-S House committee heard some disturbing testimony yesterday... about the drug-maker's alleged efforts to hide a recall of popular over-the-counter children's drugs. Johnson and Johnson is accused of secretly sending people out into stores to buy up children's drugs that were possibly contaminated with bacteria. The company did eventually issue a public recall of more than 40 of it's over-the- counter drugs.

10/20/10: Good Morning CT - :25

#### **"Stroller Recall"**

Two million baby strollers are being recalled after four children were strangled while riding in them. Graco Quattro Tour and MetroLite strollers made before 2007 are included in this recall. If a baby isn't strapped in, he or she can slide through the opening between the tray and bottom of the seat, causing the child to get strangled. The four infants were hurt and died between 2003 and 2005.

10/28/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

#### **"Halloween Lantern Recall"**

We have a recall to tell you about to keep your family safe this Halloween. The Consumer Product Safety Commission and Dollar Tree Stores are recalling nearly 700-thousand battery-operated Halloween lanterns. They look like pumpkins, ghosts and skull. The Plastic lantern can overheat because the bulb inside can get too hot. If you have one, return it for a refund.

10/29/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

#### **"Mitsubishi/Suzuki Recall"**

Suzuki and Mitsubishi both have recalls tonight. Suzuki is recalling nearly 70-thousand S-X-4 compact crossovers from 2007 through 2010. Screws on the outside rearview mirrors could get loose and fall off. Mitsubishi is recalling more than 19-thousand Endeavor crossovers from 2006 through 2008. There are problems with the air conditioning that could affect the defroster. We've got all the info on the website.. at wtnh.com.

### **November:**

11/11/10: News 8 at 10pm - :20

#### **"Nissan Recall"**

A recall to tell you about tonight...Nissan is calling back more than 600-thousand vehicles due to steering and battery cable problems. The recall affects 2002-2004 Frontier pickup trucks and Xterra S-U-Vs and 2010 Sentra sedans. It's a voluntary recall. Nissan says they will notify owners in December when parts are available and the repairs will be made for free.

11/23/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

#### **"Cheese Recall"**

Some appetizers made in East Haven are being recalled tonight. Calabro Cheese is recalling 57 pounds of Rotolini meat and cheese roll appetizer products. There is fear that the appetizers may be contaminated with Listeria.

11/25/10: News 8 at 10pm - :18

#### **"Black Friday Tips"**

Experts say many shoppers make major mistakes on Black Friday. They say shoppers should establish and stick to their budgets before hitting the stores with credit cards. Consumer Reports says it could take up to a year for some people to pay off their cards after buying all of those gifts. The organization says more than 13 million people are still paying of last years holiday debts.

11/26/10: Good Morning CT - :20

### **"Toy Choking Hazards"**

Before you head out to buy those toys on your kid's wish list you probably want to double check that they're safe. There are a lot of toys out there that can be a choking hazard to your child. The American Academy of Pediatrics has a new report on trouble with the choking standards for kids' toys. Inez Tenenbaum, Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, "I'm always open, as chairman of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission to making our standards stronger and keeping our children safe." Doctors say the old toilet paper tube test really works. If a toy fits through that tube its dangerous for kids under three.

## **December:**

12/06/10: Good Morning CT - :25

### **"IPAD Christmas"**

The iPad is tops on a lot of holiday wish lists this year but there may be some good reasons to hold off on buying an ipad. The ipad was released in Aril and is ripe for an update from Apple. The Two most requested changes: A built in camera for photos and video chat like the iphone 4 already has and a price reduction. Updates to the ipad could be coming sometime early next year. There will also be a lot of cheaper Ipad-like tablets running google's android operating system. Those will have a camera and work with more programs like flash and skype.

12/09/10: Good Morning CT - :25

### **"Tree Fires"**

An important reminder this morning from New Haven Firefighters ... The joy of the holiday season can be ruined in seconds if your Christmas Tree catches on fire. Acording to the U-S Consumer Product Safety Commission, Christmas trees account for about 300 fires each year resulting in 10 deaths and seven million dollars worth of property damage. If you have a live tree, remember to keep it watered and away from stoves or other heating units. The lights can also cause problems. The fire chief also reminds you to make sure you have working smoke detectors in every room and c-o detectors on every floor of your home.

12/13/10: News 8 at 10pm - :20

### **"FED EX Packages"**

Did you ship a package today? Fed ex says today is the busiest day ever for shipping packages worldwide. Fed Ex expects to have delivered 16 million packages today. That's up about 13 percent from last year. Economists watch the numbers for those big shippers closely because they are a good sign of consumer demand.

## **Government, Economy, & Law**

## **October:**

10/04/10: Good Morning Ct – 1:20

### **"Terror Alert"**

If you're heading to Europe anytime soon, the government has a new warning for you. Intelligence reports indicate terrorists may be plotting attacks on public places overseas. ABC's

Emily Schmidt is in Washington with the details. The government alert to U-S citizens living or touring Europe is rare. It says, "US citizens should take every precaution to be aware of their surroundings and to adopt appropriate safety measures to protect themselves while traveling." But the State Department adds it is not intended to stop American travel to Europe. Jack Cloonan/Former FBI Agent, ABC News Consultant, "You can still go. You can still be safe. You just have to be smart." The government advises: (GFX)register with the American Embassy, avoid public demonstrations, stay away from unattended packages. The alert comes after weeks of discussions between the White House and U-S intelligence community. Experts say the caution makes sense. Tony Cordesman/National Security Consultant, "You're not interfering with their lives and in today's political realities in the United States, the executive branch simply doesn't have much choice." Intelligence officials say there is no new, specific threat. Instead it comes from concerns that terrorists working with Osama bin Laden's blessing are planning commando-style attacks on tourist and transportation centers in France, Britain and Germany. Twice in the past two weeks French officials evacuated the Eiffel Tower for what turned out to be false alarms.

10/11/10: Good Morning CT - :20

**"Foreclosure Issues"**

Allegations of possible mortgage fraud against major financial institutions are forcing government officials to weigh options... including a possible freeze on foreclosures. There are claims many foreclosures are based on forged documents, disappearing paper trails and faked Social Security numbers. This week... the attorneys general of up to 40 states are expected to announce a joint investigation.

10/14/10: News 8 at 10pm - :20

**"Pelosi Social Security"**

The government is expected to announce tomorrow... that more than 58 million retirees and disabled Americans will go a second straight year without an increase in social security benefits. But Nancy Pelosi said today... the House will vote to provide 250 dollar payments to Social Security recipients... after the November elections. She says that money will make up for the lack of a cost-of-living increase for next year.

10/23/10: News 8 at 10pm - :50

**"Malik Jones' Mom Speaks Out"**

A New Haven mother whose son was killed by an East Haven police officer is talking with News 8 about a wrongful death settlement reached in the case. 900-thousand dollars was awarded to Malik Jones' estate. Jones was 21, when he was shot and killed after a chase into New Haven in 1997. Emma Jones says... the death of her son was unjust -- although the officer was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing. Jones' daughter -- now 16 -- was the only witness called to testify before a jury... deciding the value of human life. "She was able to sit in a courtroom of strangers and give this testimony to show what a terrible loss it was for my son not to have a relationship with such a wonderful beautiful daughter." East Haven plans to appeal. The mayor released this statement yesterday, saying "our officers have a duty and a right to uphold the law and return safely to their own families at the end of every shift."

**November:**

11/03/10: Good Morning CT - :40

**"Violent Video Game Scotus"**

How violent is too violent when it comes to video games? That's what the Supreme Court may have to decide. It's hearing arguments over the constitutionality of a California law that banned the sale of violent video games to minors. Supporters say children face psychological harm from these games. The gaming industry says any ban poses a threat to free speech.

11/07/10: News 8 at 10pm - :15

**"Rep Ryan on Health Bill"**

Members of the GOP are sounding off about their agenda... and opposition towards the Obama administration. Today on Fox News Sunday Congressman Paul Ryan who is set to take control of the House budget committee said most in his party want a new president and a quote.. "better senate" in 2012. Ryan also said they want to get rid of the new health care law.

11/15/10: News 8 at 10pm - :20

**"Hartford Civil Rights Meeting"**

A meeting tonight in Hartford on a proposed law some civil rights groups say will protect civil rights and liberties in the capitol city. A coalition of community organizations gathered on City Hall steps to support an ordinance which would prohibit racial profiling by police as well as limit local law enforcement agencies' participation in government surveillance and federal immigration enforcement activities. A public hearing on the proposed law was then held inside City Hall. The ordinance was first introduced last summer.

11/30/10: Good Morning CT - :43

**"Death Penalty"**

Convicted Cheshire home invasion killer Steven Hayes will be formally sentenced to death later this week. But an effort to repeal the state's death penalty statute is already underway. The state's Lethal Injection chamber has only been used once after serial killer Michael Ross fought to end his appeals. Earlier this year the General Assembly approved a law to stop the death penalty but Governor Jodi Rell vetoed it. Governor-elect Dan Malloy says he's ready to sign the bill if it passes again.

**December:**

12/03/10: News 8 at 10pm - :25

**"AG AT&T Presser"**

The Attorney General was also speaking out today against AT&T's request to have secret negotiations over a 1 point 1 million dollar fine. AT&T wants to have private negotiations with the Department of Public Utility Control. The company was hit with the hefty fine for failing since 2001 to repair 90-percent of its broken phone lines within 24 hours. Blumenthal says that violates a state law and he wants AT&T to pay the fine.

12/13/10: News 8 at 10pm - :30

**"Health Care Ruling"**

The historic health care overhaul legislation hit its first major roadblock today. A federal judge in Virginia declared that the part of the reform that requires people to buy health insurance is unconstitutional. That part of the law doesn't go into effect until 2014 which means there will be time for the issue to be worked out in court. The law will more than likely end up being judged by the Supreme Court. The ruling could give Republicans who want to repeal the bill extra ammunition. GOP leaders are promising a repeal effort when they take control of Congress and President Obama promises to veto any repeal legislation.

12/16/10: News 8 at 11pm - :20

**"Reid Spending Bill"**

Word tonight that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has pulled back a \$1.3 trillion dollar spending measure after some Republicans took back their support. The measure is laced with home state pet projects. Reid says he will now work to produce a short-term funding bill to keep the government in operation into early next year.